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UNCLAS VILNIUS 001477

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: COUNTRY CLEARANCE FOR ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY  
MICHAEL KOZAK

REF(S): STATE 257064

1. Post warmly welcomes Ambassador Michael Kozak and is pleased to grant country clearance for the period of December 3-6, 2004 to attend the "Advancing Europe Whole and Free: Challenges and Opportunities for Transatlantic Cooperation" conference.

2. Embassy point of contact for your visit is Trevor Boyd, POL/ECON. Contact information is TEL: +370-5-266-5539; FAX: +370-5-266-5510; E-MAIL: BoydTW@state.gov.

3. The American Embassy address is Akmenu 6. The 24-hour Embassy telephone number is +370-5-2665500; fax number is +370-5-2665510. All operators speak English.

4. Hotel reservations have been made, as requested reftel for the nights of December 3-5 at Stikliai hotel for a single room at the rate of 126 USD per night. The room rate includes all taxes and breakfast. The hotel is located at Gaono 7; tel: +370-5-264-9596; fax: +370-5-212-3870.

5. Your hotel, most restaurants and many stores accept credit cards. However, it is a good idea to have some cash on hand since much of Lithuania still operates on a cash economy. The Embassy cashier is available for check cashing services (during the hours 0900 to 1300 M,T,TH,F) and there are automatic teller machines (ATM) around the city. There is also an exchange service at the airport at commercial rates (comparable to those at the Embassy).

6. Lithuania is a relatively safe country with very little anti-American sentiment. Vilnius has a low criminal threat level, however, visitors should take standard precautions, as in any other large urban area. Crimes of opportunity are most common, pick pocketing, car break-ins and theft. Most crimes happen at night or in the early morning hours. After dark, visitors should stay in pairs and exercise common sense and avoid isolated areas. Visitors are encouraged to leave any valuables in their hotel safety deposit boxes. Use of public transportation is not recommended. Should you wish a security briefing upon arrival, please contact the RSO at tel: +370-5-2665621.

7. For additional information about Vilnius you may wish to log on to [www.inyourpocket.com](http://www.inyourpocket.com) and select Vilnius.

8. Visitors are advised to arrange taxi service through their hotel or the Embassy. However, taxis that are parked in front of the airport are reliable. Be aware of rogue taxi drivers who approach you offering their taxi service. Always inquire what the fare will be in advance. The trip into town from the airport should cost around \$5.00-\$10.00 (depending on exchange rate and day of the week).

9. Visas are not required if stay is less than 90 days.

10. The climate in Vilnius during the winter is dark, cold and wet with snow and ice. Boots, jacket and gloves are necessary.

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